

Safety Activity Checkpoint Tools-Hand and Power

Council Approval: Not required

Activity Permitted For: D B J C S A

Tools are specific to grade level. Please review master chart.



About Learning and Using Tools

Tools greatly vary by their power source (battery operated, electric or manual), as well as what job they are to be used for. While using tools can achieve great accomplishments, using extreme caution with all tools is extremely important. Adults must supervise the girls at all times and girls should never operate tools on their own or be left alone at any time. Adult supervision is mandatory for all projects using tools no matter how big or small.

Learn More

For additional resources, see:

[Safety Tips from OSHA](#)

[Department of Industrial Relations](#)

[OSHA Safety Courses - Protective Equipment](#)

Making Activities Accessible

In order to make your activity accessible to girls of all abilities, it's important to communicate with all girl attendees and their caregivers to learn about and accommodate their varied support needs. For resources and information on accessible sport and adventure activities, visit [Move United](#).

Equity

In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities, consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the girls in your troop that could affect a girl's ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with girls and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all girls and their families feel comfortable that they have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as the proper equipment, prior experiences, and skills needed to enjoy the activity.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) ahead of time before taking girls out for this activity. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury to a girl or adult, missing girl, or sudden illness.

Standard Safety Guidelines. Refer to the “Standard Safety Guidelines” in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) which apply to all Girl Scout gatherings and activities. When the adult-to-girl ratio, or other safety parameters, are stricter for a specific activity than in the Standard Safety Guidelines, always follow the stricter parameters in the activity chapter.

COVID-19 Guidelines. Review the “Coronavirus Safety in Girl Scouts” section in the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) under the “Standard Safety Guidelines” section and be certain to consult with [GSNorCal’s specific COVID-19 guidance](#). When applicable, always call ahead to the vendor, property or facility involved to check for their COVID-19 safety requirements as you prepare to take girls for this activity.

Assess maturity level. Participants must be mature enough to understand safety procedures and handle equipment so as not to endanger themselves and others.

Dress appropriately. Make sure girls and adults avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in equipment. Also have girls tie back long hair. Always ensure everyone is wearing closed-toed shoes and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as eye goggles, leather gloves, ear and head protection etc. (when necessary).

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. At least one adult needs to be trained in proper usage of the tools being used including safety precautions, equipment use, emergency procedures and which grades are allowed to use which tools.

Prepare for emergencies. Ensure the presence of a first-aid kit and a first aider with a current certificate in First Aid, including Adult and Child CPR or CPR/AED, who is prepared to handle cases of injury from cuts or abrasions. If any part of the activity is located 30 minutes or more from emergency medical services, ensure the presence of a first aider with Wilderness First Aid. Learn more on how to become a Troop First-Aider by logging into your [MyGS Account-gsLearn](#). See Volunteer Essentials for information about first-aid standards and training. [[SAFETYWISE: First Aid & First Aiders](#)]

General safety tips for hand and power tools:

- Always have an adult that is trained in that piece of equipment or tool teach the participants how to use each item.
- Buy quality tools. Many tools, including cutters and hammers, should be made of steel and should be heat-treated.
- Regularly inspect tools to make sure they are in good shape and fit for use.
- Be sure to maintain your tools by performing regular maintenance, like grinding or sharpening. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Use the right tool for the job. In other words, don’t try to use a wrench as a hammer.
- Make sure that your feet are planted on a stable surface.
- Be aware of the people around you and make sure they stay clear of the tools you are using.
- Never carry tools up a ladder by hand. Instead, use a bucket or bag to hoist tools from the ground to the worker.
- When working at heights, never leave tools lying out in the areas where they could present a hazard to workers below.
- Never carry pointed tools in your pocket. Carry them in a toolbox or cart instead.
- Inspect your tools on a regular basis, checking for damage. Report damaged tools to your supervisor.
- Make sure to keep extra tools handy in case the tool you had planned to use is damaged.
- Make sure tools are stored in a safe place.

Safety tips for electric power tools:

To prevent hazards associated with the use of power tools, workers should observe the following general precautions:

- Never carry a tool by the cord or hose.
- Never yank the cord or the hose to disconnect it from the receptacle.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Disconnect tools when not using them, before servicing and cleaning them, and when changing accessories such as blades, bits, and cutters.
- Keep all people not involved with the work at a safe distance from the work area.
- Secure work with clamps or a vise, freeing both hands to operate the tool.
- Avoid accidental starting. Do not hold fingers on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- Maintain tools with care; keep them sharp and clean for best performance.
- Follow instructions in the user's manual for lubricating and changing accessories.
- Be sure to keep good footing and maintain good balance when operating power tools.
- Wear proper apparel for the task. Loose clothing, long hair, ties, or jewelry can become caught in moving parts.
- Remove all damaged portable electric tools from use and tag them: "Do Not Use."
- Keep floors dry and clean to avoid slipping while working with or around dangerous tools.
- Keep cords from presenting a tripping hazard.
- Use tools that are double-insulated or have a three-pronged cord and are plugged into a grounded receptacle.
- Do not use electric tools in wet conditions unless they are approved for that use.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) or an assured grounding program.

Please review - Master Tool Chart for Appropriate Grade Level

Type of Tool	Grade Level Permitted					
	D	B	J	C	S	A
Band/Scroll Saws				X	X	X
Belt Sander (electric, cordless)				X	X	X
Chain Saws	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Circular, Reciprocating, or Radial Saw	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Commercial Lawn Mower (push, self-propelled, riding)	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Coping Saw				X	X	X
Cordless Drill				X	X	X
Cutting tools (e.g., Dremel®, small)				X	X	X
Edger (electric, gas-powered)						X
Hacksaw				X	X	X
Hand clipper (small)		X	X	X	X	X
Handheld sander (small)				X	X	X
Handsaw		X	X	X	X	X
Hedge trimmer (electric, gas-powered)						X

Hoe		X	X	X	X	X	X
Hose spray washer		X	X	X	X	X	X
Hot Glue				X	X	X	X
Jigsaw						X	X
Leaf/grass blower (electric, gas-powered)							X

Type of Tool	Grade Level Permitted					
	D	B	J	C	S	A
Line trimmer (electric, gas-powered)	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Log splitters	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Mattock				X	X	X
Nail hammer	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paint roller with extension pole			X	X	X	X
Paint sprayer (small, less than 50 psi)				X	X	X
Pickaxe				X	X	X
Pocketknife		X	X	X	X	X
Posthole digger				X	X	X
Pressure washer (>50 but <100 PSI)					X	X
Rake	X	X	X	X	X	X
Residential lawn mower (self-propelled, riding)	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Retractable Knives				X	X	X
Router/planer	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Screwdriver (electric)			X	X	X	X
Screwdrivers	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shovel	X	X	X	X	X	X
Soldering Iron				X	X	X
Trowel		X	X	X	X	X
Wheel cart (1-, 2-, or 4-wheeled)			X	X	X	X
Wood chippers Age 18 and older	<i>Not Permitted</i>					
Wood chisel			X	X	X	X
Wood sanding block (handheld)	X	X	X	X	X	X